

NEW JERSEY BOARD AGAIN IN TROUBLE

Public Utility Commissioners Face an Early Trial on 18 Charges.

GOVERNOR TO BE JUDGE

Neglect and Misconduct Alleged in New Case That Promises Sensations.

Confronted by eighteen specific charges of neglect of duty and misconduct in office, some of which are new and sensational, all the members of the New Jersey Public Utility Commission must face an early trial before Gov. Edward G. Edwards. The removal of the commissioners is demanded by the Senate Committee on Public Utilities through its ranking Counsel, John Milton, and the special counsel, former Representative Marshall Van Winkle and George L. Record, who for some time have been conducting an investigation and who will conduct the prosecution before the Governor.

Under the public utility act of New Jersey the accused commissioners must be called to appear in court in which to present their defense. Though the charges have been sent to the Governor yesterday, members of the accused commission said they had not yet been served with them, and at the office of the commission in Jersey City it was said that until the formal charges had been received individual members of the commission would not be compelled to appear before the Governor.

Gov. Edwards estimates that he would fix a date for the trial and that it probably would be next month. The members of the commission are John V. Stouffer of Newark, Andrew Gandy of Bergen, and H. L. Kniefel of Burlington. A few days ago there was a fifth member, Alfred March of Middlesex, but he resigned and thus will not have to face the charges brought against his colleagues. Each of the commissioners receives a salary of \$7,500.

Should the charges be sustained in any considerable degree, opinion in New Jersey takes for granted that Gov. Edwards will recommend their removal. One of the principal points in his inaugural address was his recommendation of the committee's action in bending every effort to obtain some arrangement that will insure continuous work through the period of negotiations. The program presented a solemn preface by Frank Ward O'Malley, in which Mr. O'Malley set forth that he himself disclaimed all responsibility for "The Old Visitors," and that furthermore, he could bring himself to agree with his colleagues that it was the girl's work of Queen Victoria.

At the conference yesterday of the Union League Club, the committee decided to break a week end precedent and continue the deliberations to-day and Monday.

In explaining the committee's action in bending every effort to obtain some arrangement that will insure continuous work through the period of negotiations, continue Phil Murray, International vice-president of the United Mine Workers, said both sides will try to arrive at terms before the end of this month.

The workers introduced at the meeting comparative figures showing that bituminous miners are paid more than those in the anthracite fields. The miners in the coal田 are paid 187.50 per cent. less than men doing similar work in the bituminous fields. Day workers comprise about 74 per cent. of all the men employed in the anthracite region. Commenting on the significance of these figures the workers' representatives asserted that any wage increase given their day men must be 187.50 per cent. higher than any award made to the bituminous day workers.

The coming trial before the Governor is likely to be more sensational than was the hearing last autumn before Gov. Harry Flanagan on charges brought against the commissioners by the town of Montclair that hearing ended with the then Governor's sending the Commissioners back with the ruling that there was not sufficient evidence to warrant removal.

The New Jersey League of Municipalities took an active part in the fight against increasing fares, and its counsel, Frank H. Sommer, is said to have assisted in formulating the present charges.

On a previous occasion he not only alienated the favor and favoritism toward the Public Service Corporation and its subsidiaries to the detriment of public welfare, but count three in the indictment charges that the Public Utility Commissioner permitted the Public Utility Company to dip into its depreciation reserves funds to the extent of \$100,000,000 in 1917 for the purpose of paying dividends, "and that, too, upon what was."

For Election of Federal Judges.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—A resolution proposing a constitutional amendment for the direct election of Federal Judges was introduced today by Senator La Follette (Wisc.). It was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY NEW YORK CHURCHES

Dr. Wise to Make Address on "What Ideals Can Be Retained in Marriage."

WILSON SIDETRACKS MINERS ON WAGES

Majority Report of Commission Chosen in Settlement.

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MINERS HOPEFUL OF AVERTING A STRIKE

Anthracite Workers Express Willingness to Remain in the Negotiations.

Neither miners nor operators want to see a strike in the anthracite fields April 1, when the present wage agreement expires.

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ONE OF 125 INDICTED COAL MEN ARRESTED

Secretary of Operators Surrenders in Conspiracy Case.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 19.—Arrest of the first of 125 coal operators or miners indicted by a special Federal Grand Jury here for alleged violation of the Lever fuel control act and conspiracy sections of the Federal criminal code was effected to-day when Carl J. Fletcher of Indianapolis, Secretary of the Knox Coal Co., got out of the custody of U. S. Marshals. Mr. Fletcher was released immediately when he furnished bond of \$10,000 for his appearance in court May 4.

Others of the indicted men are expected to surrender within the next few days.

According to operators, the list furnished to them would indicate that most of the operators indicted were men present at wage scale conferences in the central competitive field—Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and western Pennsylvania—since the passage of the Lever act.

For reasons which have nothing to do with the artists and diverting presentation of the playlets, the annual dinner of the Dutch Treaters was successful in all respects.

Sale To-day 2 P.M. at the Galleries of FIFTH AVENUE Fourth Ave. Cor. 25th Street.

FIFTH AVENUE AUCTION ROOMS

Property belonging to the Estate of the late WILLIAM SIMPSON

Also consignments from other Estates and Individuals, consisting in part of

Works of Art FURNITURE AND OTHER

The combined collection includes:

Colonial Furniture

In large variety, Flemish Oak Dining Room Suite, Sheraton, Empire, and Living Room Furniture.

Tables, Chairs, Dressers, etc.

Paintings, Pictures, Porcelain, Glassware, Art Objects, etc.

Removals to Madison Avenue.

To be sold by order of

George W. Harper, Jr., Esq., Executor.

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Mr. AUGUSTUS W. CLARKE

Clarke's West 44th St

To-Day at 2:30 P.M.

(Closing Session)

Estate of the late T. ADDIS EMMET

Furniture, Paintings, Fine Tapestries, Brass, Silver Plate, Table China, Glassware, Art Objects, etc.

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